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A DISSERTATION ON ANÆMIA.

[Concluded from page 134.]

MERCURY, from its general stimulating effects, has been universally esteemed as one of the most powerful of known alteratives; but its chief medicinal power seems to depend upon removing obstructions from the whole glandular system and upon equalizing the circulation. Whatever good effect, however, it may produce in inflammatory, congestive, and some other complaints, from long experience we are satisfied that in diseases of debility, its stimulating properties never fail to break down the constitution and to quicken the fatal tendency of the disease. Therefore, except an occasional blue pill at night, to be followed with some gentle cathartic next morning, mercury should never be employed in the treatment of anæmia. Hence some other remedy, possessing an influence similar to that of mercury over the secretions, must be sought for, which will not add to the existing debility. In reflecting upon the various articles of the materia medica, in order to select some one of them, whose action would pervade the whole system, without producing that debility which follows the employment of mercury, sulphur was chosen, because it acts most powerfully on all the secreting organs, especially on the liver, spleen, pancreas, kidneys, perspirable glands of the skin, and on the secretions of the mucous membranes of the alimentary canal. It also increases the animal heat, which is always deficient in anæmia.

Another reason for employing sulphur in the cure of bloodlessness, was the high encomium passed by the late Dr. John Armstrong on the sulphuretted hydrogen gas, as naturally combined with the Harrowgate and other similar mineral waters, when employed in the cure of chronic affections. These mineral waters often removed the disease, after mercury and the usual remedies failed to give relief. We also knew it to be successfully employed by the planters of the south and west in removing the intermittent fevers of their slaves, and consequently that it possessed tonic properties; that in all cases, where employed for any length of time, it uniformly increased the animal heat, vigor, and strength of the muscles, and consequently the activity of the whole body—circumstances of much importance in all diseases of debility. Now in this substance we found an agent capable of exerting nearly as great an influence upon the secreting organs as mercury; but with this difference, that its long continued use invigorates the system, whilst mercury in-

creases the irritability and debility attending the disease. Chemists have ascertained that sulphur is a constituent part of the blood; and it is a subject worthy of investigation to inquire whether the blood may not be deficient in sulphur, in anæmia and some other diseases.

These considerations induced us to employ sulphur in the treatment of anæmia, and we have not been disappointed in the good effects anticipated from it; for under its exhibition the circulation becomes more equalized, the coldness of the feet and hands gives place to a natural warmth, and the paleness of the face is changed to the glow of health; the perspirable glands of the skin are restored to their proper functions, and the dryness of the surface is succeeded by a mild diaphoresis. The dejections show that a change has taken place in the secretions of the liver and other abdominal glands. The excoriation and ulceration of the mucous membranes of the primæ viæ heal, and the system is gradually restored to its accustomed vigor.

But this favorable issue is not always to be expected, more especially when the disease has existed for a long time previous to active medication; yet neither the physician nor the patient should be discouraged, but persevere in the use of the medicine, and often health will be restored.

If there is a tenderness and pain at the scrobiculis cordis, either a few leeches, blisters or sinapisms, applied to the region of the stomach, may sometimes be necessary previous to the use of sulphur. The sulphur should be given in doses proportioned to the circumstances of the patient. When the bowels are costive and the patient complains of a vertigo, it should be given in sufficient doses to move the bowels once or twice daily; but if in moderate doses it is not sufficiently laxative of itself, it may be combined with calcined magnesia—and when it produces griping, the lac sulphuris, or the washed sulphur, may be substituted, or it may be given in combination with soda or other alkalies. In those cases where a diarrhœa or a dysentery accompanies the disease, the sulphur may be reduced in quantity, and be given with opium or with Dover's powders.

Whether sulphur combined with neutral salts, as found in the natural sulphur springs, is preferable to the uncombined sulphur in substance, we do not know, but presume that all mineral waters containing the sulphuretted hydrogen gas, whether in combination with salines or not, possess high remedial properties, in this and most other chronic affections; and where the strength of the patients is adequate to the undertaking, we should advise them to visit the sulphur springs in Virginia, if no others are found near home. The change of air will often benefit the patient as much as the medicinal waters.

To relieve the soreness of the mouth, the gargles above recommended may be used; and when a diarrhœa or dysentery is present, the remedies before advised may be employed, notwithstanding the use of the sulphur.

Sulphur may be made into pills, combined with other remedies, as in the following forms. R. Sodæ sub-boracis, ℈2; sulphur. precip. 1 dr.; mucilag. acaciæ, q. s. Fiant pilulæ 24, quarum capiat tres ter quotidié.

R. Ferri sub-carbon., 1 ʒ ; sulphur. depur., 1 ʒ ; myrrhæ, 1½ ʒ ; aloes soc., 1½ ʒ ; fellis taur. inspis., 1½ ʒ. Pounded well together, and divide into pills of 4 gr. each, of which take two or three, three times a day. Some cases will occur where the sulphur will not cure, or where from some particular idiosyncrasy it cannot be taken, when some other remedy must be substituted for it.

In a few cases we have derived much benefit from an infusion of the leaves and flowers of the garden marigold (calendula sativa). An extract of the leaves and flowers would contain all the virtues, and would be a much more elegant form of the medicine. It is thought to be aperient, and to promote the secretions in general, by all the old writers on the materia medica ; and it has certainly appeared to produce that effect in all the cases in which we have given it a fair trial ; and therefore we recommend the calendula as one of the best adjuncts to other remedies in the treatment of anæmia. In one case a physician informed us that he removed the disease by the daily and liberal use of the calendula, without other remedies.

The meadow rue (thalictrum dioicum) is a very popular remedy for curing the *canker of the mouth*, as this disease is commonly called. A strong infusion is employed internally, and also used as a wash for the ulceration of the mucous membrane of the mouth. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the medicine to decide what its real virtues are, or to decide whether it may be beneficially employed in the treatment of anæmia or not. All the species found in this region possess similar properties, so that they may be employed promiscuously.

Creosote is a medicine which has lately been introduced into practice, and, judging from the few trials made with it, we think it one of the best known remedies to remove local or general irritability of the system. In an irritable state of the stomach, attended with vomiting, it is the most effectual remedy, with which we are acquainted, to quiet this organ and to restrain its inverted action, from whatever cause, even in the cholera itself. Creosote will also remove the irritable state of the mucous membrane of the whole digestive tube, and heal the ulcerations that are present in it. Hence in anæmia, attended with vomiting and ulcerations of the mucous membrane, creosote will often prove a sovereign remedy, after other articles have failed to afford relief. The short period of time that creosote has been medicinally employed, has not disclosed many, and perhaps but few, of its healing virtues, and whether of itself it will ever be found adequate to the cure of anæmia, is uncertain ; yet it is a most powerful adjunct to other remedies, and will assist in removing some of the most distressing symptoms attending the disease. It may be given in the dose of one drop combined with a mucilage of gum arabic, every hour or two, until vomiting ceases, or it may be dissolved in chloric ether or in alcohol, which will dissolve it in any proportion. Or the creosote may be dissolved in eighty parts of water, and in that form employed as a gargle or taken internally ; but sometimes the gargle should be made of much greater strength.

We shall now proceed to mention the causes which induced us to employ an article which will extend our resources, and, as we think,

prove a most valuable addition to the remedies now in use in the cure of anæmia. As the debility in this disease increases, the irritability also increases, and hence the most effectual remedies will be all those articles which remove these two symptoms. For many years past we have successfully employed the nitrate of silver, in the pencil form, or in solution, for the cure of ulcerations on the surface of the body, especially in the case of irritable sore legs, and in that painful affection of the ends of the fingers called paronychia, and have found it one of the most powerful allayers of irritability with which we are acquainted; a few applications only in such cases being sufficient to remove the pain and irritable state of the sore, to reduce it to the state of a simple purulent ulcer, and to induce a most rapid healing process. These considerations induced us to prescribe the solution, in the proportion of 2 gr. of the nitrate to an ounce of water, for the cure of excoriated nipples in nursing women, and we soon found it more efficacious in this painful affection than any other remedy we had ever employed. We afterwards prescribed it as a gargle in the ulcerations of the throat which accompany scarlet fever, and in those burning ulcerations of the mouth which accompany the anæmia; and in these affections it was found equally beneficial as in the case of sore nipples and other irritable ulcerations, its chief efficacy, as we supposed, depending upon its power of lessening the irritability of the part affected.

Reasoning from analogy, we concluded, if the nitrate would relieve the local, it would also remove the general irritability of the system, when given internally. We also knew that it might be given internally to the extent of several grains daily, without producing any bad effects, and that within a few years it had been found one of the most effectual remedies when given for the cure of that kind of epilepsy which depends upon an irritable state of the system. Hence we were induced to employ the nitrate in the treatment of general anæmia, hoping that it would produce the same salutary effect on the mucous membranes of the stomach and bowels, that had followed its application to the mucous membrane of the mouth and fauces; also that it would remove the debility and irritability so constantly present in this disease, and stimulate the secerning system to a healthy performance of their functions.

We therefore commenced the internal use of the nitrate of silver, in the dose of one quarter of a grain three times a-day, and gradually increased the quantity up to one or two grains for a dose, if the continuance of the disease required its augmentation, and soon its good effects were visible in relieving the cardialgia, pain of the stomach and bowels, flatulence and palpitations; and in proportion to the alleviation of these symptoms, the irritability decreased, the digestive organs were restored to their healthy functions, and digestion being more perfectly performed, and the appetite increased, the wasted vigor of the system was gradually restored, and the pale cheek gave place to the blush of health. In the dysentery and diarrhœa which often attend this disease, the nitrate proved almost a specific, given either by the mouth, or in the form of enema, or both ways, as the case required. The action of this medicine is, however, not confined to the primæ viæ, but is extended to

the whole system, influencing all the secretions, and changing the morbid into healthy actions. Perhaps it exerts some specific power or influence over the ganglion or organic class of nerves; but whether this is the case or not, it is certain that some cases of anæmia, incurable by other means, can be cured with the nitrate, as we have several times experienced.

At this very time we have a patient rapidly recovering to perfect health, under the use of the nitras argenti, who has been harassed during the three last months of her gestation, and the two or three first of her nursing, with the functional derangements attending anæmia. Diarrhœa, or an almost insufferable sore mouth, has been constantly present, and occasionally there has been a vomiting of a tough, acrid phlegm, and twice from the same cause has she suffered severely from a dysentery. With the ordinary remedies we could alleviate the symptoms, but not wholly remove the disease, and we almost despaired of the patient's recovery, from the alarming state of emaciation and debility into which she had fallen, until happily the nitrate was employed.

We therefore, without hesitation, recommend the nitrate as one of the most effectual of all the known remedies, in the cure of anæmia; but to say that in all cases of the disease it would prove as certainly effectual in the cure as bark is in intermittents, would be incorrect. Yet it will sometimes remove the disease, when all other means have failed. It is also a valuable adjunct to other remedies, and the use of this article will not preclude that of any other which the disease may demand, except incompatibles. That, like mercury and sulphur, its action pervades the whole system, stimulating the glandular organs and restoring their healthy functions, is proved by the changed appearance of the bile in the dejections, also by the circumstance of its passing out at the cutaneous pores, and in some instances tinging the skin of a bluish-black color. But the skin is not very often tinged by the nitrate, unless from long-continued and excessive use, and therefore this ought to be no objection to its employment. However, when the skin becomes colored, a free use of cream of tartar is said to remove it.

The crystals being the most pure, should be preferred for internal use. The nitrate may be given in the form of pills, or in solution. The pills are made by dissolving the nitrate in distilled or other pure water, when either crumbs of bread, containing *no salt*, or some farinaceous substance, may be mixed with the solution, so as to form into a mass, to be made into pills containing one fourth of a grain each. These pills may be given one at a time, four times a day, and gradually increased until two grains are given in the course of twenty-four hours. Or the solution in distilled water may be given in the same dose.

When employed as a gargle, or in the form of enema, two grains of the nitrate may be dissolved in an ounce of water. When given per anum, to relieve the dysenteric pains, it may be combined with laudanum, and sometimes with starch water. This combination will be found much more effectual is relieving the tenesmus, than the landanum and starch without the nitrate.

Our particular views of the salutary effect of the internal use of the

nitrate in complaints affecting the secretions and mucous membrane of the digestive canal, which are usually attended with great debility and irritability of those organs, and generally of the whole system, are confirmed by the experience of Dr. James Johnson, of London, and recently by Dr. Boudin, "Who [says the reviewer] has published an interesting article in the *Gazette Medicale Marseilles*, in which he extols the remedial powers of the nitrate of silver in inflammation in general, and especially that of the mucous membranes. Dr. B. resorted to this remedy in an epidemic typhous fever (follicules enteritis) which prevailed in Marseilles, in September, 1835, with striking advantage. He used as an injection 3 or 4 grains of the salt, dissolved in 6 oz. of water, administered night and morning. In more than fifty patients, treated by this means, two only died, and the post-mortem examination of these established two important facts—first, that the remedy had not produced any irritation, superadded to the inflammation of the disease, but that many of the ulcers were in a state of cicatrization—second, that although administered exclusively per anum, the remedy had extended its action beyond the ileo-cœcal valve, and communicated to the inferior portion of the small intestines the greyish color observed in the whole extent of the mucous membrane of the large intestines. Dr. B. says it is an error, though a common one, to attribute to the nitrate of silver a local action, and as not extending an influence beyond the surface with which it is placed in contact. When given by the mouth, Dr. B. recommends this formula: R. Argent. nitrat., gr. 6; aqua pura, q. s. Solve et adde ad saturand g. tragacanth vel amylum. M. fit. pilul. No. 12. One to be taken every half hour until the desired number, four or eight, be taken."

SARATOGA WATERS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—Having been driven from Hartford, Conn., to the fountains of Saratoga for the improvement of my own health, and having, since my settlement here, been called upon by many invalids to direct them in the proper application of these celebrated waters, I have thought it might be acceptable to your numerous readers to learn something from one who has had, and expects still to have, the responsibility of advising invalids in the correct use of these powerful natural remedies.

To this measure I am not impelled by private considerations merely. No physician can assume the post I have occupied since the death of the late Dr. Steel, and witness the numbers who leave these fountains positively injured, and return home to their former medical advisers in disgust and often in despair, without experiencing deep pain and sympathy at the miserable perversion and misapplication of one of the most efficient medicines in the world. There is not one of your readers that would fail to be unhappy in like circumstances. And how can it be otherwise? Many individuals come here without any professional advice, or direction, or preparation. Having worn out their physicians, or

been the rounds of the nostrums, they resolve to spend *two or three weeks* drinking and bathing at the pools of Saratoga! Very many procure no directions from their physicians at home. A visit to Saratoga is somehow to cure them.

Precisely as if they should say, in an ordinary attack of sickness, "I will go to the druggist's and procure some medicine." "Ah! but what medicine?" "No matter, medicine is medicine." "But how do you know that your present disorder will be benefited by the remedy you may happen to select?" "No matter, I am sick, and there must be something on the shelves of the apothecary, to whom every body resorts, that will cure me." In the same manner, valetudinarians often visit mineral springs. Without knowing at all whether their diseases be inflammatory or the reverse—whether they are plethoric or reduced—whether they need the water as an alterative, diuretic or cathartic—whether they need the warm, cold or shower bath, or neither:—in short, in utter ignorance of the variety of ways the remedy can be brought to bear on various disorders in different constitutions and temperaments, they mostly seem to come with two simple purposes—to deluge the stomach with as much water as they can swallow, and resort frequently to the baths. In this way the plans of the patient are often thwarted, his hopes blasted, and he leaves us, wondering that such crowds should resort to a place where he has received nothing but trouble and disappointment.

Do not understand me that these things occur in a majority of cases. Many apply directly to physicians at home, or here, and receive proper preparation for the beneficial effects of the remedy, and are directed particularly as to the time, quantity and mode of administration, and the proper regimen to be observed. Such persons pursue the very rational course of regarding mineral waters, particularly of this village, as they would any other powerful article of the materia medica—liable to produce great benefit or mischief, according to its application, and in this way experience the happy results of their visit. And of those who take the waters on their own responsibility, many are doubtless greatly benefited, and concur with others in spreading the reputation of the springs of Saratoga.

It is that the nature of these waters should be more widely known to the members of our profession, and that suffering invalids should receive more accurate and full directions and preparation from their family physician before leaving home, that I have ventured to ask a place in your columns for a few hasty communications. In my next I shall hope to illustrate the real character of the various mineral waters of this village, as a therapeutical agent in the removal of disease. With respect, &c.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., March 26, 1839. M. L. North.

QUACK MEDICINES.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—Will some of your correspondents be good enough to tell what can be done in cases where we come in contact with quack medi-

cines which we know to be injurious, and yet find that our credulous friends are placing implicit confidence in them? If we speak frankly, openly and boldly against their use, our patients will say that it is a matter of course that we should disclaim against all medicines that we do not prescribe ourselves, and charge us with cherishing a selfish principle and with a want of benevolence; but neither conscience, honor or duty will allow us to speak favorably of their use.

For the last few years, Brandreth's pills have been "all the go." Dozens on dozens and boxfull after boxfull have been taken in the same family, and by the same individual too, among my acquaintances, to their decided injury, to say the least. We all know that these pills are composed of the most drastic ingredients.

About two years ago, while residing in Connecticut, I was called upon early one morning to attend a delicate young lady, who, her husband informed me, had symptoms of being in labor, but her time was not up by two months or more. On examination, I found that labor was, indeed, already considerably advanced—as the child's head was lying in the inferior strait of the pelvis. She was soon delivered of a small, feeble child, weighing about four pounds, and probably at about the seventh month of pregnancy. A good deal of flooding supervened upon the expulsion of the placenta, which, however, was soon suppressed by efficient means. The woman has been feeble ever since, complaining of a pain in her back, and a weakness in the region of the pelvis. The child still lives, but is small and sickly. And now for the cause of all this.

When I saw that my patient was safe, I inquired of her mother what had been the state of her health for some time previous to her confinement. She stated that her daughter had been somewhat troubled with costiveness, and that the day before she had taken *six Brandreth's pills*; that they had operated very violently, and that she had been tormented with a constant desire to go to stool ever since, till the labor pains commenced. Who will wonder at the result of such a course?

Within a very short time I have been called to see a delicate, nervous lady, six weeks after her confinement. I found her pale and trembling, pulse frequent and small; there was a great degree of irritability throughout her whole frame, and she was constantly teased with painful retchings and tenesmus. Having been costive since her confinement, she had, the day previous, taken a dose of *Brandreth's pills*. She recovered after a few days.

I ask, again, what can be done to stop the ravages of quackery, which, within a few years, have spread to such an alarming extent throughout our whole country? Yours, &c.

Unionville, Mass., March 23, 1839. E. G. Wheeler.

DR. MINER'S ADDRESS.

[The address of Thomas Miner, M.D. to the candidates for degrees and licenses, in the Medical Institution of Yale College, was alluded to

in the Journal some weeks ago, and we have since been endeavoring to find room for extracts from it. We can this week give only a portion of the concluding part, with the regret that we cannot insert the whole address in our pages.]

After all, notwithstanding the highest physical and mental cultivation, a great part of the success and usefulness, and nearly all the happiness, which a professional man can really expect to enjoy, either now or hereafter, must principally depend upon the discipline of his mind. All his mental and moral faculties must be in a healthy condition. It is no matter how much the understanding may be improved. Acquirements of this kind frequently serve only to increase the sensibility to the trials, pains and troubles inseparable from this life, where the will and affections have never been properly trained, and become habitually directed in a true course. It is not usurping the province of the moralist and divine, for teachers of every description to keep the importance of this moral discipline always in view of their pupils. It is the only sure balance wheel, by which the variegated actions of life can be regulated, and kept in proper order. Nothing besides keeps us from being too much elated in prosperity, or too greatly depressed in adversity. A physician, to be as useful to himself and others as is possible, must be not only a learned, but a good man, in whom all the amiable and benevolent feelings are developed and cultivated. If his temper is not right, everything about him is apt to go wrong. If the unruly feelings, passions, and appetites, are not, in a great measure, subdued and controlled, he is more than most other men beset with temptations, which are liable to call them into action. The great law of benevolence and charity, in addition to its being binding upon all, is peculiarly imperative as respects himself. It is not out of place to state, that this law, in its various bearings and ramifications, is most perfectly developed in the 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters of Matthew, commonly called the sermon on the mount. The ablest and most practical commentary upon it is to be found in the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians.

An accurate acquaintance with that charity which is so inimitably described by the apostle, together with its cordial and habitual application, would fit us for any condition or sphere of life. We should perform all our duties, and pass through all our trials, with ease and satisfaction, and by acting well our part here, we might humbly hope to become fitted for another and a better world.

But, I cannot dismiss this part of the subject here, when endeavoring to exhibit some of the principal means of becoming permanently useful in the performance of duty.

The scriptures, besides being the only sure guide to a blessed immortality, contain the only perfect rules for our conduct in this life, as relates to ourselves, and our fellow men. A mere worldly man, who confines his views to the present time, can no where find the principles and maxims of common prudence so clearly delineated, as in the Bible. In no other book is human nature so accurately described. In no other book is the true method pointed out for succeeding well in this world, and for living comfortably and respectably. The spirit of humility,

meekness, charity and benevolence, which it inculcates, will keep mankind clear of a great portion of the ills of life, and will teach to bear those which are unavoidable with a submission that lightens them of half their burden, and makes their weight very tolerable. When to this is added a well-grounded hope of a blessed immortality, even the greatest temporal sufferings are comparatively a trifle. In a civilized and Christian community, he who follows the precepts of the gospel as strictly as human imperfection admits, will find he has no burdens which he is unable to bear, in ordinary circumstances, and will be exposed to no trials which are not adapted to strengthen and improve his virtue. He makes a true estimate of the world, and therefore is not disappointed and ruffled when everything does not go as he could wish. He rightly values all the blessings which he enjoys, and finds that most of the adversity which he suffers, has either been caused, or materially aggravated, by his own fault. This teaches him humility, submission and resignation.

It is often made a question, how far the distinction of wealth, honor, and eminence, is to be sought after and desired. I think it is not difficult to settle the matter, upon Christian principles. The pursuit of either of these objects, for itself, is but a sordid, selfish concern. At the same time, each has its value, and is not to be despised, under certain restrictions. As far as it is followed, not as the end, but as the means of doing good, it is desirable. A professional man is a conspicuous public agent. He must, therefore, have a character which will give him an influence superior to most men in private stations, or he cannot make an impression sufficient to become extensively useful. A comfortable support, a respectable standing, and reputation for skill, to a certain degree, he must possess, as they are the principal means to enable him to do the duties of his calling.

There is no clashing of duties, if they are performed according to the spirit of the gospel. When exercising benevolence to others, we are best providing for ourselves; and when properly providing for ourselves, we increase our ability to be useful to others. And both sets of duties are cheerful and happy exercises of themselves; but they are much heightened, and receive a new relish, when they are performed in love and obedience to our Creator.

I feel it incumbent upon me, in an address to young men who are going out into the world, to insist upon the necessity of this moral discipline of the will, affections, passions, and I may add, appetites, because without it, the highest cultivation of the powers and faculties of the understanding must be very defective and imperfect. They are liable to meet with difficulties and troubles on every side; but by far their greatest difficulty is, to conduct themselves rightly under them. If they consider this world, as it is in reality, as only being a place of trial, in which they are to become fitted for another and better state of existence, they will find that no burden is laid upon them which is improper for them to bear. Indeed, it will be borne easily and cheerfully, or at any rate, it will be received with submission and resignation, when it is felt to be the means of their own improvement. Under the opposite trial of sudden and

unexpected prosperity—which, when it happens to occur, is as difficult to be borne as adversity—they will be able to conduct themselves with meekness and humility.

Cowper said of his country, with great propriety, patriotism, and good feeling,

"England, with all thy faults, I love thee still."

So a good physician loves his profession, and a good man loves his fellow men. It is a striking mark of depravity—or, I more charitably think, in many instances, of a diseased mind—to take a morbid delight in recounting and complaining of the difficulties of our profession, and of life in general. A healthy mind needs no such acrid stimulus, and shrinks from such unnatural excitement. It delights in what is lovely and amiable, and has always bright spots enough in view, upon which the eye can rest with satisfaction. As a general rule, the smiles of Providence are far more numerous than the frowns, and we have abundant reasons for gratitude for the many unmerited favors we enjoy.

Those who have not sadly misjudged of their talents and faculties, and have not entered upon the profession with mistaken views of its nature and object, will find that their success, under Providence, is to depend almost entirely on themselves. This is what has been my principal aim to inculcate. With sound moral principle for the foundation—without which nothing can be stable—aided by common sense and common prudence, there can be no reasonable apprehension of failure. The occasional obstacles and difficulties, with the temporary fears, will prove only a sufficient stimulus to bring all the energies into action. It was a maxim with Sir William Jones, that whatever any other man could do, he could do. A degree of confidence of this kind in his own powers, though tempered with suitable modesty, is necessary for every young man to possess, who aspires after eminence, as the means of doing the greatest good in his profession.

One thing is certain. All can do their duty. It is upon this principle that all moral accountability rests. Without it, all laws and commands would be an absurdity. He to whom his Creator has loaned a capital of ten talents, and he who has but one, are equally responsible for the charge intrusted to their care, and are equally bound to conduct themselves as good stewards, who will one day have to render an account.

TREATMENT OF TINEA CAPITIS.

[We find the following remarks on the use of the eupatorium perfoliatum and super-tartrate of potassa, in tinea capitis, by Dr. W. Zollickoffer, of Maryland, in the last No. of the Philadelphia Medical Examiner.]

The combination under consideration, being productive of the effects of a *general alterative*, has decided advantage over the internal remedies and external applications commonly resorted to in the treatment of tinea capitis. It is more prompt and effectual, and seldom fails to remove the disease in a very short time. Tinea capitis may be controlled

in its progress, and radically cured in five or six weeks, by its use, without the necessity of having recourse to the various depilatory applications recommended by authors, all of which are productive of unnecessary uneasiness to the patient, to say nothing of the disagreeable effects growing out of such a course of treatment.

Considering this malady as the development of a general deranged condition in the office of the skin, locating itself on the scalp and its *immediate* proximity, produced by a degree of hepatic functional derangement, I have long since been persuaded that an alterative course of treatment is essential for its removal; and the practice I have adopted, based on this pathological view, has proved successful, whether this opinion of the doctrine of the diseased action constituting this troublesome malady be correct, or not. Preferring to the mercurial preparations, any remedy that is competent to the production of the same consecutive displays in the treatment of disease, in the affection which is the subject of this paper, I have found the combination recommended so efficacious, that I venture to solicit the profession to make a trial of its powers.

In using the perfoliatum (the powdered leaves), and cremor tartar, in the dose of ten grains of the former, with twenty of the latter, three times a-day, from four to six weeks, desquamation will readily be found to take place, and the scalp to assume a healthy condition. I occasionally prescribe, particularly if the bowels are constipated, a dose of the tartras sodæ et potassæ, or sodæ sulphas; and, if the subject of the disease is of a plethoric habit, the dietetic course is strictly antiphlogistic; the latter precautionary means should be carried out to a certain extent under all circumstances. External applications, when this remedy is used, are altogether unnecessary. I exhibit the medicine in water, and occasionally add some sugar to render it more palatable.

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BOSTON, APRIL 10, 1839.

LEXINGTON (KY.) MEDICAL SCHOOL.

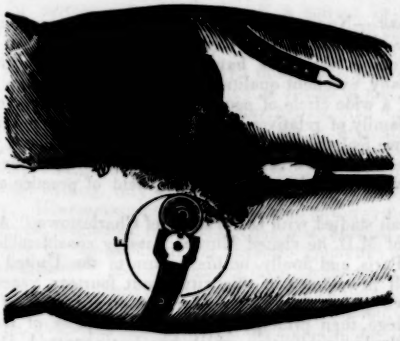
There is a paragraph on our table, cut from a western paper, which says that "this institution continues to decline." "The catalogue of the students of last winter exhibits the smallest class that has assembled within her walls for the last nine years." "The falling off in the number of graduates is twenty per cent. upon that of the last season." Now this appears, at the onset, like rank slander; but in the course of human events, if it should happen to be true, it is greatly to be lamented that such a man as Dr. Douglass has gone *out of fashion;* or that the facilities and excellencies of that school, which in former times commanded the highest respect of the learned, should no longer be appreciated. The difficulty is not, we apprehend, in the faculty, if any difficulty exists—for each individual of the board must become better and better qualified, by age and experience, to sustain the school; but the generation is becoming

both superficial and perverse, and this is the reason that so much backbiting characterizes the medical ranks of the western country. We have implicit confidence in the Lexington gentlemen. If it so happens that there is a diminution of students, what has that to do with the mode of instruction? The system has suffered no deterioration.

Without a particular partiality for any, we look forward, with hope, for the triumphant success of all the medical seminaries of the great west.

Louisville Medical Journal.—Much to the regret of all well-wishers to the progress of medical science, it has been officially announced, by the publishers, that the above-named Journal, which was of a most creditable appearance in size and matter, has been suspended. Two numbers only appeared, before it had its quietus. Whether there was a lack of patronage, or a lack of materials, has not been ascertained. The probability is that too many such publications have been parturiated within a geographical compass, in the west, which is too small to afford sustenance to all of them. Many of the periodicals in other parts of the country, devoted to scientific interests, are vigorously sustained, though they have all gone through varied scenes of tribulation to gain their present condition.

Dr. Fletcher's Truss.—The adaptation of Dr. Fletcher's truss to the anatomical structure of the parts concerned in hernia, will be tolerably well explained by the accompanying drawing and its references.



The drawing represents the parts as seen after the skin and adipose substance have been dissected away, thereby exhibiting the several parts, their relation to each other, and also the adaptation of this instrument to the varieties of hernia. A, refers to Poupart's ligament, extending from the anterior superior spinous process of the ilium, downwards and forwards to its attachment at the pubis. B, refers to the internal ring, as seen through the fascia; the dotted lines represent the course of the canal from the internal through the external ring, down into the scrotum. C, the external ring formed by the division of Poupart's ligament, near its attachment at the pubis. D, the place where crural or femoral hernia ap-

pears under Poupart's ligament. E, the femoral artery, indistinctly seen through the fascia lata of the thigh. F, the circle which the pad performs, and at any desired point of which, the pad may be made stationary.

By the foregoing explanations the fact will be fully shown that one instrument will answer equally well for the different kinds of hernia.

Club Feet.—Dr. Brown is uncommonly successful in putting distorted and misplaced bones of the feet precisely where nature intended they should be. We saw him divide the tendons of the heel, the other day, very adroitly. It is far from being a frightful or even excruciatingly painful operation. A note from the doctor contains the following observations.

"My mode of treating club feet, by the section of the tendo Achillis, is according to the plan laid down by Bouvier, and which has been highly approved by the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris. I make use of an instrument described by him, called the tenotome."

Dr. Wallace on the Eye.—Having procured illustrations of this gentleman's discoveries in the eye, it is our intention, the coming week, to present an extract from one of his recent lectures, as the easiest mode of making the author familiarly understood. Dr. Wallace has gained a celebrity in Europe, by unwearied devotion to the anatomy of the visual organs, that must be gratifying to a numerous circle of distinguished professional friends.

Dr. McKean.—No announcement could have been more surprising than that of the sudden death of Dr. Joseph W. McKean, of this city, on Thursday evening last. We have known him many years, and appreciated the many excellent qualities which gained for him the personal friendship of a wide circle of acquaintances. While we sympathize with an afflicted family of relatives in this melancholy dispensation of divine Providence, we feel that the medical profession of Boston has also met with a severe loss. To urbanity of manners he united a devoted attention to the sick, which gave him an increasing field of practice as years sped their way.

Dr. McKean studied with Dr. Walker, of Charlestown. After receiving the degree of M.D. he visited Europe, passing considerable time in the hospitals of Paris, and finally, on his return to the United States, established himself in business in this city, about fourteen years ago. Some ten or twelve years since, soon after the organization of the Vermont Medical College, then principally under the auspices of Dr. Gallup, author of a valuable publication which has just appeared, Dr. M. gave a course of lectures on anatomy, in that school. He has been a counsellor of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and a spirited promoter of every plan for enlarging the sphere of medical and surgical knowledge.

Dr. McKean was son of the late Professor Joseph McKean, of Harvard University, and was born in 1800. He was exceedingly tall, and rather slender, but with the exception of occasional interruptions, arising from a predisposition to a pulmonary disease, he enjoyed, of late, very good health. On the day of his decease, he had been as well, apparently, as in months past, and manifested unabated activity in the routine of professional visits, even to within an hour of the arrival of the messenger of

death. On sending, about 6 o'clock, to the room to which he had retired for study, to call him to tea, he was found dead in his chair. We have heard of no post-mortem examination, and presume his death was caused by some affection of the heart.

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Dyott, of Philadelphia, for fraudulently conveying away his property, to the injury of his creditors, is likely to find that the way of the transgressor is hard.—Mr. Fowler, the phrenologist, has returned to Boston, and taken an office under the Marlboro' Chapel.—An apothecary has opened a shop in Constantine, since its occupation by the French—the first one ever seen in that part of Africa.—Dea. John Whitman, of East Bridgewater, Mass., completed his 104th year last week, and is in excellent health.—A new edition of Dr. Oliver's System of Physiology is wanted, as copies are getting scarce.—Dr. Gallup's new work seems to meet the approbation of medical philosophers, without distinction.—Two volumes are abroad from the press of Marsh, Capen, Lyon and Webb, Boston, on the *Science of Life*, by Sylvester Graham.—The fatality of scarlet fever, in some sections of Virginia, is exciting alarm and consternation. Nine children are said to have fallen victims to it in two families, belonging to the same neighborhood.—Mr. R. S. Davis, of Boston, the publisher, is about sending forth a fourth edition of the Class-book of Anatomy. The work meets with a rapid sale—having been introduced into the principal academies and high schools in New England. The demand for the work in the southern and western States is also increasing.—The Grand Jury of Quebec has found a bill against Dr. Holmes, for murder.—An Irish woman, a convict in the House of Correction, at South Boston, on Tuesday evening, April 2d, became the mother of a pair of twin boys, making her fourth pair of twins within a few years. The husband is also a convict in the same prison—both being committed last December.—Whole number of deaths in the U. S. Marine Hospital at Chelsea, the quarter ending March 31st, 12; the whole number of patients in the same time, 182.—A paper in a small quarto form, called the *Medical Recorder*, is published at Cincinnati, by the proprietors of Miles's Compound Extract of Tomato!—Dr. E. G. Tucker, a surgeon dentist, has been writing, very understandingly, on the teeth, in the Vermont Mercury. His manuscript should have been given to a medical journal, at once.—Dr. Sigmond, of London, has just finished an elaborate series of lectures on the medical and physical properties of tea, at the Medico-botanical Society, and is preparing them for the press.—A man, in England, after drinking freely of beer and spirits, swallowed an ounce of laudanum. By the use of the stomach pump, flagellation, bastinadoing, the cold douche, and a cayenne plaster to the stomach, his life was saved. The bastinado was used to such an extent, that the integuments of the feet sloughed off.—Mr. Wakley, editor of the London Lancet, has been elected coroner for the county of Middlesex.—Sir B. Brodie orders the following preparation to blistered surfaces, when troublesome. Prepared chalk, olive oil, of each five drachms; rose water, two oz. Mix.—The will of Dr. William Barthrop, who died at Kinderhook, is making considerable excitement. Out of $150,000, he bequeathed $15,000 for the establishment of an infirmary in the village of Kinderhook.—The Legislature of Virginia has resolved to appropriate $20,000 to erect the buildings of a deaf and dumb asylum, and $10,000 annually for defraying its expenses.

To Correspondents.—The favors of Dr. Williams will receive attention next week; also the Meteorological Journal for March.

Died,—In Boston, Dr. Joseph W. McKean, aged 38.—At Brooklyn, N. Y., Dr. Thomas J. Boyd, of the U. S. Navy.—At Providence, Jacob Fuller, M.D., author of the dissertation on anæmia concluded in this day's Journal.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending April 6, 38. Males, 18—females, 20.
Of consumption, 3—delirium tremens, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—old age, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 1—spasms, 1—fits, 3—scarlet fever, 7—dropsy, 1—debility, 1—lung fever, 5—catarrh, 1—liver complaint, 1—scald, 1—infantile, 3—apoplexy, 1—cancer, 1—dropsy in the head, 1—disease of the heart, 1—stillborn, 2.

TO PHYSICIANS.

A physician, residing a short distance from Boston, wishing to retire from professional business, offers his estate for sale, which consists of good buildings and a small farm. The situation is as eligible for a physician as can be found in the State. For particulars, inquire at this office.
A. 10—3t*

DR. HULL'S UTERO-ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

This new instrument for the radical cure of Prolapsus Uteri, or Falling of the Womb, by external application, superseding the use of the objectionable pessary, is confidently recommended to the afflicted as the means of a perfect restoration to health, it never having failed of performing a cure, even under the most aggravated circumstances. It has received the decided approbation of Sir Astley Cooper, of London; Sir Benjamin C. Brodie; Sir James Clark, Physician to the Queen; Dr. Ashwell, Lecturer on Midwifery to Guy's Hospital; Dr. Rigby, Lecturer to St. Bartholomew's; Dr. Griffith, Lecturer to Westminster Hospital; Dr. Ramsbotham, Lecturer to London Hospital; Robert Ferguson, Lecturer to Westminster Lying-in Hospital; Dr. Sweatman, Lecturer to Middlesex Hospital, and Senior Accoucheur to Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital; also by Henry Davies, Conquest; Blundell, Lee, Merriman, Surgeon Keates, &c.; by Dr. Moreau, President of the Academie Royale de Medecine, Paris, and Accoucheur to the Duchess D'Orleans; Professors Velpeau, Marjolin, Paul Dubois, Sanson, and others—and in New York by Professor J. W. Francis; G. S. Bedford, M.D., Professor of Midwifery in University of the city of New York; Professor Delafield, Professor Francis U. Johnston, President County Medical Society; Laurens Hull, President Medical Society, State of New York; Professor James McNaughton, Albany; Professor March, Professor Cyrus Perkins, Professor Doane; James Webster, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, Geneva; David L. Rodgers, Professor Surgery, Geneva College; Drs. Thomas Boyd, Gilbert Smith, Hosack, Stearns, Ludlow, Kissam, Vache, Power, Grayson, Van Rensselaer, and many other distinguished physicians of the United States.

AMOS G. HULL,
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☞ A constant supply of the above instruments will be kept by Reed, Wing & Cutler (late Lowe & Reed), No. 54 Chatham street, Boston. Lowe & Reed have sold many of the above instruments, and can refer to physicians of eminence by whom they have been highly approved, as well as to patients to whom they have afforded the most essential relief. Price $10. Feb. 13—6m

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

The subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction. Their pupils will have regular access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. They will be admitted, also, to the practice of the House of Correction, which constantly presents a large number of important cases, and where opportunities will be afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge of compounding and dispensing medicines. They will be furnished with opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy, not inferior to any in the country. To the pupils, particularly to those in the last year of their professional studies, facilities will be afforded for acquiring a personal acquaintance with private medical and obstetric practice. Instruction by examinations or lectures will be given in the different branches of medical studies, during the interval between the public lectures of the University. Books, and a room with fire and lights, will be furnished to the students at the expense of the instructers.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK,
WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr.
WINSLOW LEWIS, Jr.

Oct 31—eptf

ORTHOPEDIC INFIRMARY

FOR THE TREATMENT OF SPINAL DISTORTIONS, CLUB FEET, ETC.

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John C. Warren, George Hayward, Edward Reynolds, Jno. Randall, J. Mason Warren, John Jeffries, John Homans, M. S. Perry, W. Channing, George C. Shattuck, J. Bigelow, Enoch Hale, W. Strong, George Parkman, D. Humphreys Storer, George W. Otis, Jr., Winslow Lewis, Jr., J. H. Lane, Edw. Warren, Geo. B. Doane, John Ware, George Bartlett, John Flint.

Boston, August 1, 1838. tf.

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